

## **Lawrence County Solid Waste District: School Recycling**

In October 2013, the Lawrence County Solid Waste District started recycling programs at eight Lawrence County schools. The participating schools include: Bedford North Lawrence High School, Lincoln Elementary, Stalker Elementary, Dollens Elementary, Mitchell High School, Mitchell Jr. High, Burris Elementary, and Hatfield Elementary. The teachers and students at each school are responsible for gathering the materials together each week and setting them out for pickup.

The greatest barrier for the schools was how to transport the large volume of recyclable materials to the recycling center. In order to overcome this barrier, the solid waste district partnered with Transitional Services, Inc., (TSI) to offer the schools free recycling pickup. TSI provides services for developmentally disabled individuals, and the recycling pickups offer job skills training for their clients.

The North Lawrence School district has saved an average of \$560 per month on their waste removal costs, with total savings of more than \$1,675 since starting the program. The recycled materials include cardboard, metal cans, and plastic from the cafeterias, and mixed paper from the classrooms. The solid waste district hopes to expand the program to a number of local businesses, as well.

